

RESOURCES

Significant Natural Areas Program

The Significant Natural Areas Program was established to identify high-priority sites for the conservation of California's biological diversity and to inform resource decision-makers about the importance of these sites. The program's goals, as directed by the *Fish and Game Code* (Section 1930-1933), are to:

1. Identify the most significant natural areas in California;
2. Ensure the recognition of these areas;
3. Seek the long-term perpetuation of these areas;
4. Provide coordinating services for other public agencies and private organizations interested in protecting natural areas.

What type of products are available?

Reports and maps of Significant Natural Areas (SNA's) are available for each county in California. Also available is a digital shapefile for use on Geographic Information Systems.

How is this information used?

1. Watershed or bioregional conservation planning (Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Planning, regional open space plans)
2. Environmental document review, recommended sites for mitigation banking
3. Designation of special-status areas on public lands or acquisition planning for nature reserves

For more information on the Significant Natural Areas Program, contact 916 322-2493.

Timber Tax Credit Program

The Timber Tax Credit Program (TTCP) was created by the Department of Fish and Game to administer state laws AB 2925 (Sher) and SB 846 (Thompson). These laws were established to give private California landowners a financial incentive to improve salmon and steelhead habitat on their land. This program is scheduled to sunset December 1, 2000, although legislation (SB 1158, Sher and AB 1254, Strom-Martin) is currently being considered which would expand and extend this program.

To date, credited projects have ranged from road stabilization to in-stream structures and improved irrigation systems. Those taking advantage of the credits range from some of the State's largest corporate land owners to small private residential owners. The common thread is their desire to improve salmon and steelhead habitat and their understanding that, collectively, we can make a difference.

TTCP participants receive up to a 10 percent state tax credit for qualified costs associated with salmon and steelhead habitat improvement. Maximum credit for an individual or entity is \$50,000 per year.

In short, any project that is beneficial to salmon or steelhead will be considered for tax credit. However, credit can not be given for work required under the Forest Practices Act, by a Timber Harvest Plan or mitigation required under CEQA.

For additional information e-mail, write or call: PO Box 2219, McKinleyville CA, 95519-2219, 707 839-3378 voice & fax
mzuspan@dfg2.ca.gov or www.dfg.ca.gov/timber/ttcp.l.htm.

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR)

CWHR is a state-of-the-art information system for California's wildlife. It has information on life history, geographic distribution, taxonomy and legal status, and habitat relationships for 675 species of regularly occurring amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The information is based on current published and unpublished biological information and professional judgement by recognized experts on California's wildlife. Because of its predictive nature, CWHR has many applications for wildlife resource issues, including habitat conservation and management, land use planning, impact assessment, education and research. The CWHR System is operated and maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the California Interagency Wildlife Task Group (CIWTG). Components of the system include:

CWHR Version 7.0 Software

A community-level matrix model for predicting wildlife habitat relationships for the 675 vertebrates included in CWHR. Presence/absence and habitat suitability predictions are based on geographic distribution, relationships to 59 habitat types averaging 12 stages each, and use of 124 special habitat elements. Also includes life history and legal status information. Produces 9 types of reports.

GIS Data

Distribution maps for all of the modeled species in CWHR, originally published in "California's Wildlife, Volumes I-III". Approximately 70% of all maps have undergone minor to major revision since publication and are now available electronically both as ArcInfo GIS coverages and as images..

Publications

Mayer, K.E. and W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., eds. 1988. **A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California**. State of California, Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA. Describes the CWHR habitat classification system upon which the wildlife habitat relationship models are based. Currently under revision, this first edition includes vegetation crosswalks to Holland (1986) and Cheatham and Haller (1975). It does not include descriptions or classification rules for habitat types added since 1988. *Out of print; black and white copies only.*

Zeiner, D.C., W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988-1990. **California's Wildlife. Volumes I (Amphibians and Reptiles), II (Birds) and III (Mammals)**. State of California, Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA. A three volume set containing life history attributes, range and distribution information for 650 of the species modeled in the computerized database. A valuable reference that can be used independently of the CWHR system.

California's Wildlife on CD-ROM. A program which allows the user to search for a species and print a report containing life history information, references and a range map. Users can also print an entire species list for California. Contains updated information on species in the original publication plus some additional species. Also contains descriptions from the original "A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California" plus habitats added since publication. Note to those ordering Version 7.0 subscriptions: "California's Wildlife" is contained within Version 7.0.

Airola, D.A. 1988. **A Guide to the Wildlife Habitat Relationships System**. A broad overview of the CWHR System which describes various uses and limitations of the system. Provides examples of system output from the CWHR database program as of 1988. *Out of print; black and white copies only.*

For information on CWHR or an order form for CWHR products, contact; CWHR Program Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Game, 1807 13th Street, Suite 202, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916 327-8822, or www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/cwhr/whrintro.html.